

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION
PIER¹ ENVIRONMENTAL AREA:
ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATORY GRANT PROGRAM
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:
5:00 PM PACIFIC TIME, October 10, 2006

The California Energy Commission's (Commission) PIER Environmental Area (PIER-EA) Team is accepting proposals for research projects through its Environmental Exploratory Grant Program (EEGP). This program is administered through the University of California, hereafter referred to as (EEGP Administrator). The goal of this program is to support the early development of promising, new scientific concepts with the potential to impact the way we understand and/or address energy-related environmental issues. The program should enhance the current PIER-EA research portfolio by funding focused projects in areas not presently being considered. Approximately \$600,000 of PIER funds is allocated to Environmental Exploratory Grants. The maximum amount of any individual grant award is \$75,000. The EEGP is designed to tap into the broad research community to help ensure that PIER-EA is open to research opportunities in the full range of energy-related environmental issues relevant to the mission of the PIER-EA Program.

The PIER program is made up of six subject areas: Buildings End-Use Efficiency, Industrial/Agricultural/Water End-Use Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technologies, Environmentally-Preferred Advanced Generation, Energy Systems Integration, and Energy-Related Environmental Research. The stated mission of the PIER Program is to conduct energy research to improve quality of life by "...providing environmentally sound, safe, reliable and affordable energy services and products..."

In practice, the mission of the PIER-EA program is to develop cost-effective approaches to evaluating and resolving environmental effects of energy production, transmission, delivery, and use in California, and to explore how new electricity applications and products can solve environmental problems. The primary objective of this program is to fund projects that will provide foundational information necessary for more-focused, larger-scale research development and demonstration (RD&D) projects that support the PIER-EA mission. The EEGP will assist Commission staff in fulfilling this mission by providing information:

- that supports the early development of promising, new scientific concepts;
- that can be used to determine the need for new PIER-EA planning efforts (roadmaps);
- that leads to an improved understanding of key processes that affect environmental quality as a result of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use in California; and/ or
- that is necessary for more informed decision and policy making in California.

Grant awards will be made competitively on the basis of a technical and programmatic review process.

¹ The Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program is managed by the California Energy Commission (Commission). The purpose of the program is to provide benefits to California electric ratepayers by funding energy research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects that are not adequately provided for by competitive and regulated energy markets. More information about the PIER Program can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/pier/index.html>.

The research goals of the PIER-EA Program are crosscutting. They are to:

- Improve understanding and develop solutions to reduce the land-use and habitat, aquatic resources, and air quality -related impacts of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use;
- Improve understanding of the nature and significance of global climate change, its relationship to electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use, and develop strategies and solutions to address identified impacts; and
- Create the knowledge base for a policy framework that encourages solutions to environmental issues through electricity technology development and market innovation.

Within PIER-EA, there are five focus areas: (1) Indoor air quality; (2) Outdoor air quality; (3) Land use and habitat; (4) Aquatic resources; and (5) Global climate change. Research Plans (roadmaps) are being developed in each of these PIER-EA focus areas. For those areas that have finalized roadmaps, there are certain research restrictions that apply to the EEGP Program. There are other topic areas that, even though they may not be tied to a particular roadmap, are being funded and, therefore, are also restricted. These restrictions apply in order to prevent the same proposal from being submitted to multiple programs within PIER, to avoid institutional confusion over which PIER program the applicant is soliciting, and to avoid the duplication of research. See section titled *What projects are not eligible for funding?* for specific instructions on research restrictions.

A detailed description of the PIER-EA program and focus areas (except for indoor air quality) can be found on the Commission web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/pier/environmental/index.html>. The Commission's PIER Buildings End-Use Efficiency Team co-sponsored a national planning effort to identify research and development needs in the area of indoor environmental quality (IEQ). This plan is also being used by PIER-EA and is available to download as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file at <http://www-library.lbl.gov/docs/LBNL/513/28/PDF/LBNL-51328.pdf>. The PIER-EA team is working with the Buildings' team to address particular aspects of the plan. Just as with the roadmaps and other funded projects, certain restrictions regarding the IEQ research plan will apply to the EEGP.

Participation in the EEGP is open to individuals and the following groups: small and large businesses, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and local, state and federal governmental organizations.

Persons interested in applying for an EEGP grant should consult the material in this Grant Application Manual (GAM). The GAM contains important details on the preparation and submission of proposals, including instructions that must be followed, forms that must be used, and research restrictions.

This manual may be revised periodically to address changes to the grant application process. Applicants must use the current version of the GAM that is posted along with the solicitation notice on the Commission's web site at www.energy.ca.gov/contracts where it is available for viewing and downloading in PDF and Microsoft Word XP and Microsoft Excel XP. A paper copy of this manual is available from the EEGP Administrator upon request.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

5:00 PM Pacific Time, 10 October, 2006

Submit completed grant applications to appropriate address below.

Address for electronic submission (PREFERRED):

Email: Explore2006@ucop.edu

Address for hard-copy submission:

PIER-EA EEGP Administrator

California Institute for Energy and Environment

University of California, Office of the President

1333 Broadway, Suite 240

Oakland, CA 94612-1918

Contact Information:

Brad Niess

Phone: (510) 287-3326

Email: Explore2006@ucop.edu

Please note: Following submission, if you do not receive a confirmation of receipt from the EEGP Administrator that your application was received before the deadline, you must call to confirm that your application was received before the deadline. If an applicant thinks that a proposal was submitted, but no confirmation notice was sent by the EEGP Administrator, the proposal will not be accepted. Proposals sent to the California Energy Commission will not be accepted. Faxed copies will NOT be accepted.

Applicant Notification List

We recommend that all individuals or organizations that intend to submit a proposal to the current solicitation register their email address with the EEGP Administrator to ensure notification of any late changes to the application process. To register, send an email to Explore2006@ucop.edu and request your email address be added to the "Applicant Notification List". Contact information will be retained for future EEGP solicitations. If you would like to be removed from this list, please make a request to the EEGP Administrator.

Environmental Exploratory Grant Program Solicitation Notification

Individuals and organizations that desire to receive an email notification of future EEGP solicitations or all Commission funding solicitations should go to the Commission's web site at www.energy.ca.gov/contracts and go to the page describing the various Mailing Lists. Follow the instructions for registering your email address with Research and Development Lists.

EEGP Administrator staff welcomes your comments and suggestions for improving this manual at any time. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about these materials.